

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appln. No:           To Be Assigned  
Applicant:           Katsuichi Minami, et al  
Filed:                Herewith  
Title:                OPENING AND CLOSING DEVICE  
TC/A.U.:  
Examiner:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the reference listed on the PTO 1449 (RP) submitted herewith. A copy of the listed reference is also enclosed.

Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

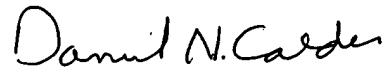
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

The following Japanese reference is not in the English language but an English abstract thereof are attached to the copy of the reference submitted herewith:

- 1)     JP 2002-089542

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515  
Daniel N. Calder, Reg. No. 27,424  
Attorneys for Applicants

DNC:ds

Enclosures: PTO Form 1449  
(1) Reference

Dated: December 11, 2003

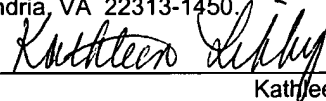
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Kathleen Libby

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Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO

# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

***(Use as many sheets as necessary)***

**SHEET 1 of 1**

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	To Be Assigned
Filing Date	Herewith
First Named Inventor	Katsuichi Minami, et al
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket No.	MAT-8493US

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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**\*EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).

<sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04.

<sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard St.3).

<sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

<sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible.

<sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO : Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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